ing alternate emotions of pity and diſguſt, may ſerve to illuſtrate this remark. They trample on virgin baſhfulneſs with a ſort of bravado, and glorying in their ſhame, become more audaciouſly lewd than men, however depraved, to whom this ſexual quality has not been gratuitouſly granted, ever appear to be. But theſe poor ignorant wretches never had any modeſty to loſe, when they conſigned themſelves to infamy; for modeſty is a virtue not a quality. No, they were only baſhful, ſhame-faced innocents; and loſing their innocence, their ſhame-facedneſs was rudely bruſhed off; a virtue would have left ſome veſtiges in the mind, had it been ſacrificed to paſſion, to make us reſpect the grand ruin.

Purity of mind, or that genuine delicacy, which is the only virtuous ſupport of chaſtity, is near akin to that refinement of humanity, which never reſides in any but cultivated minds. It is ſomething nobler than innocence; it is the delicacy of reflection, and not the coyneſs of ignorance. The reſerve of reaſon, which, like habitual cleanlineſs, is ſeldom ſeen in any great degree, unleſs the ſoul is active, may eaſily be diſtinguiſhed from uſtic ſhyneſs or wanton ſkittiſhneſs; and, ſo far

far from being incompatible with knowledge, it is its faireſt fruit. What a groſs idea of modeſty had the writer of the following remark! 'The lady who aſked the queſtion 'whether women may be inſtructed in the 'modern ſyſtem of botany, conſiſtently with 'female delicacy?—was accuſed of ridiculous 'prudery: nevertheleſs, if ſhe had propoſed 'the queſtion to me, I ſhould certainly have 'anſwered—They cannot.' Thus is the fair book of knowledge to be ſhut with an everlaſting ſeal! On reading ſimilar paſſages I have reverentially lifted up my eyes and heart to Him who liveth for ever and ever, and ſaid, O my Father, haſt Thou by the very conſtitution of her nature forbid Thy child to ſeek Thee in the fair forms of truth? And, can her ſoul be ſullied by the knowledge that awfully calls her to Thee?

I have then philoſophically purſued theſe reflections till I inferred that thoſe women who have moſt improved their reaſon muſt have the moſt modeſty—though a dignified ſedateneſs of deportment may have ſucceeded the playful, bewitching baſhfulneſs of youth*.

* Modeſty, is the graceful calm virtue of maturity; baſhfulneſs, the charm of vivacious youth.